



Oaths of Office Taken by the Current Court

INFORMATION SHEET

John G. Roberts, Jr. – Took the Constitutional and Judicial Oaths at the White House to become the 17th Chief Justice of the United States on September 29, 2005. Senior Associate Justice John Paul Stevens administered both oaths. The Judicial Oath was taken first during a private ceremony in the Diplomatic Reception Room with members of the Court and their spouses present. The Constitutional Oath was taken during a televised ceremony in the East Room of the White House. On October 3, 2005, a formal investiture ceremony for Chief Justice Roberts took place in the Courtroom that preceded the Court’s scheduled arguments. Justice Stevens again administered the Judicial Oath with President George W. Bush in attendance.

Anthony M. Kennedy – Took both oaths in the Justices’ Conference Room on February 18, 1988. A formal investiture ceremony for Justice Kennedy followed in the Courtroom where Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist again administered the Judicial Oath. President Ronald Reagan did not attend the ceremonies at the Supreme Court. Later that day, President Reagan hosted a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, at which Chief Justice Rehnquist administered the Constitutional Oath before a televised audience.

Clarence Thomas – Took the Constitutional Oath on October 18, 1991, during a televised ceremony in the White House Rose Garden hosted by President George H.W. Bush. Senior Associate Justice Byron R. White administered that oath. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist administered the Judicial Oath to Thomas on October 23, 1991, in the Justices’ Conference Room. On November 1, 1991, a formal investiture ceremony took place in the Courtroom at which Chief Justice Rehnquist again administered the Judicial Oath. President Bush did not attend the ceremony at the Court.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg – On August 10, 1993, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist administered the Judicial Oath to Ginsburg in the Justices’ Conference Room. Later that day, Chief Justice Rehnquist administered the Constitutional Oath to Ginsburg in a televised ceremony at the White House hosted by President William J. Clinton. On Friday, October 1, 1993, the Court held a formal investiture ceremony in the Courtroom with President Clinton in attendance, at which Chief Justice Rehnquist again administered the Judicial Oath.

Stephen G. Breyer – Took both oaths in Greensboro, Vermont, administered by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, on Wednesday, August 3, 1994. On Friday, August 12, 1994, a televised oath ceremony for Justice Breyer was held in the East Room of the White House during which Justice Antonin Scalia administered the Constitutional Oath. Vice President Al Gore, in President Clinton’s absence, spoke at the ceremony, as did First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. On Friday, September 30, 1994, the Court held a formal investiture ceremony in the Courtroom with President Clinton in attendance, at which Chief Justice Rehnquist again administered the Judicial Oath.

Samuel A. Alito, Jr. – Took both oaths in the Justices’ Conference Room on Tuesday, January 31, 2006. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., administered the oaths during a private ceremony attended by members of the Supreme Court. On February 1, 2006, Chief Justice Roberts again administered the Constitutional Oath in a televised ceremony in the East Room of the White House hosted by President George W. Bush. On February 16, 2006, a formal investiture ceremony took place in the Courtroom, at which Chief Justice Roberts again administered the Judicial Oath. President Bush did not attend the investiture ceremony at the Supreme Court.

Sonia Sotomayor – Became the first Hispanic Justice on the Supreme Court after taking both oaths on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., administered the Constitutional Oath in the Justices’ Conference Room and later administered the Judicial Oath in the East Conference Room. For the first time, the Judicial Oath ceremony was televised live from the Supreme Court. On September 8, 2009, a formal investiture ceremony took place in the Courtroom, at which Chief Justice Roberts again administered the Judicial Oath with President Barack Obama in attendance.

Elena Kagan – Took both oaths on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., administered the Constitutional Oath in the Justices’ Conference Room and later administered the Judicial Oath, in a televised ceremony from the West Conference Room. On October 1, 2010, Kagan took the Judicial Oath for a second time during a formal investiture ceremony in the Courtroom, with President Obama in attendance.

Neil M. Gorsuch – Took both oaths on Monday, April 10, 2017. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., administered the Constitutional Oath (below) in the Justices’ Conference Room with Mrs. Louise Gorsuch holding a family Bible. Later that morning, senior Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy administered the Judicial Oath to Gorsuch in a televised ceremony in the White House Rose Garden hosted by President Donald J. Trump. A formal investiture ceremony was held at the Supreme Court on Thursday, June 15, 2017 with President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in attendance.

